

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for processing message headers by a first data processing system, said method comprising the steps of: as set forth in claim 1 wherein the receiving step comprises the step of

receiving, from a second data processing system, a message including a compressed header comprising an identifier to a reference, uncompressed header and changes from said reference header, and in response,

determining impact of header compression on performance, and  
if favorable, supporting the header compression for subsequent communications, and  
if unfavorable, refusing to support the header compression for the subsequent communications,  
wherein if the impact of header compression on performance is determined to be favorable, then handling said message by forming another uncompressed header based on said reference header and said changes, and returning another identifier for said another uncompressed header to the second data processing system, said another identifier being assigned by the first data processing system for use in another compressed header generated by the second data processing system.

4-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for compressing message headers by a first data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a second data processing system, a message including a compressed header, wherein said compressed header includes an identifier to a reference header and changes relative to said reference header;

determining impact of header compression on performance, and  
if favorable, handling said message, and  
if unfavorable, refusing to handle said message,

wherein if the impact of header compression on performance is favorable, further comprising the step of reconstructing said message with an uncompressed header based on said reference header and said

changes, before the step of handling said message, and returning another identifier for said uncompressed header to the second data processing system, said another identifier being assigned by the first data processing system for use in another compressed header generated by the second data processing system.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for compressing message headers, said method comprising the steps of:

a server receiving a message including a compressed header;

said server determining whether said server has sufficient memory or storage to support header compression, and

if so, handling said message, and

if not, refusing to handle said message or notifying a sender of said message that said server will not support the header compression for subsequent messages,

wherein compression for said compressed header requires that said server store a reference header, and wherein said compressed header comprises an identifier to a reference, uncompressed header and changes relative to said reference header, and if said server has sufficient memory or storage to support the header compression, further comprising the steps of:

forming an uncompressed header based on said compressed header; and

returning to a sender of said message another identifier of said uncompressed header to be used for a subsequent compressed header, said another identifier being assigned by the server.

14-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 16 A method for compressing message headers by a first data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a second data processing system, a message including an uncompressed header, a message including a compressed header or a request to support header compression, and in response,

determining if there is sufficient storage available to support the header compression, and

if so, supporting the header compression for subsequent communications, and

if not, refusing to support the header compression for the subsequent communications,

wherein said compressed header includes an identifier to a reference, uncompressed header and changes relative to said reference header, and the receiving step comprises the step of receiving [[a]] the message including a compressed header, and if there is the sufficient storage available to support the

header compression, then generating another uncompressed header based on said reference header and said changes and returning another identifier for said generated another uncompressed header to the second data processing system to be used for a subsequent compressed header, said another identifier being assigned by the first data processing system.

19. (Cancelled)